

allegedly being anticipated by Adachi et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 6,317,962), hereinafter referred to as Adachi.

§ 102(b) Rejections (JP'201) - Claims 2 and 15

The Examiner rejects claim 2 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP'201 for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Applicant traverses these rejections at least for the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 2, the Examiner essentially states, on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, that the limitation “wherein said both end portions of the cylindrical core proximal portion of the laminate have a lower rigidity than that of the remainder thereof” is inherent in JP'201. That is, the Examiner appears to believe that the end portions of the laminated core, as taught in JP'201, inherently, and physically have a lower rigidity than the “materially solid-formed” remainder portion of the laminated core. In response, Applicant submits that the end portions of the laminated core of JP'201 are not necessarily less rigid than the rest of the laminated strip. That is, absent any teaching or other evidence about the rigidity of the laminated core or its end portions, the two end portions of a laminated core are likely no less rigid than other portions thereof. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable over JP'201.

Applicant submits that dependent claim 15 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 2.

§ 102(b) Rejections (Adachi) - Claims 2 and 15

The Examiner rejects claims 2 and 15 over Adachi for the reasons set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicant traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 2, the Examiner rejects this claim over Adachi for substantially the same reasons set forth above with respect to JP'201. The Examiner states, on page 3 of the Office Action, "and inherently wherein said both end portions of the cylindrical core proximal portion are joined by welding (51b-fig 1) [the end portions] physically have a lower rigidity than that of the remainder portion thereof because the rest of the laminated core is formed by materially uniform solid portion, i.e., not being joined by soldering or welding or any bonding means." In response, Applicant submits that the two end portions, as disclosed in Adachi, are not necessarily less rigid than the rest of the laminated strip, as similarly argued above with respect to applied reference JP'201. That is, nowhere does Adachi teach or suggest that the end portions of laminated assembly 50 of Adachi have a lower rigidity than that the remainder thereof. Moreover, metals that have been heat-treated as by welding, typically are more rigid as a result. Absent any disclosure or other evidence that the end portions of laminated assembly 50 have a lower rigidity than the rest of those strips, the Examiner cannot reasonably allege that such is the case. Furthermore, the Examiner has used impermissible hindsight reasoning in alleging that the rigidity at both end portions is inherently lower than the remainder of the laminated strips. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable over Adachi.

Applicant submits that dependent claim 15 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 2.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLICATION NO.: 09/688,867

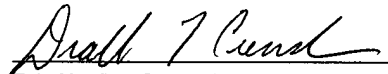
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q61035

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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